

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 20 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A standard for supporting a game net above a playing surface, comprising:

an elongated net support having upper and lower end portions and an interior portion;

a tensioning screw having a long axis rotatably secured within the interior portion of said net support;

means for selectively rotating said tensioning screw disposed adjacent said tensioning screw; and

a tensioning nut operatively secured to said tensioning screw within the interior portion of said net support so that said tensioning nut travels along the long axis of said tensioning screw in response to said tensioning screw being rotated;

said tensioning nut being operatively coupled with a tensioning line that is operatively

connected to the game net to selectively apply so that tension may be selectively applied to the game net.

Claim 2 (Original) The standard of claim 1 further comprising an elongated housing having upper and lower end portions and an open interior portion; said housing being substantially disposed beneath the playing surface and sized to telescopically receive said net support at least substantially within the interior portion of said housing.

Claim 3 (Original) The standard of claim 2 further comprising an elongated lower support having upper and lower end portions and an interior portion; said lower support being operatively coupled to said housing so that said lower support can be telescopically moved within and outwardly from the interior portion of said housing, between extended and retracted positions; said lower support further being sized to telescopically receive said net support at least substantially within the interior portion of said lower support.

Claim 4 (Original) The standard of claim 3 further comprising a base assembly operatively coupled to the upper end portion of said housing and the playing surface.

Claim 5 (Original) The standard of claim 4 wherein said base assembly is provided with a lock lug which is selectively movable in a transverse direction toward and away from said lower support.

Claim 6 (Original) The standard of claim 5 wherein said lower support is provided with means between the upper and lower end portions of said lower support for selectively engaging said lock lug to maintain an extended or retracted position and prevent unwanted telescopic movement of said lower support with respect to said housing.

1 Claim 7 (Original) The standard of claim 6 wherein said means for selectively
engaging said lock lug is positioned along the length of said lower support between the
upper and lower end portions of said lower support to define a plurality of pre-set
heights of the standard with respect to the playing surface.

5 Claim 8 (Original) The standard of claim 3 further comprising means for locking
said net support in an extended position with respect to said lower support.

10 Claim 9 (Original) The standard of claim 3 further comprising power means for
generating pressure within said housing to selectively extend said lower support from
within said housing and extend said net support from within said lower support.

15 Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The standard of claim 9 wherein the pressure
generated by said power means provides a cushion for selectively and gradually
retracting said net support into said lower support said lower support into said housing
and extending.

20 Claim 11 (Original) The standard of claim 6 further comprising a lever
operatively coupled with said lock lug so that said lock lug can be selectively moved into
and out of engagement with said means for engaging said lock lug.

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1 Claim 12 (Original) The standard of claim 1 further comprising attachment
means for releasably coupling a lower portion of the net to said net support.

5 Claim 13 (Original) The standard of claim 12 wherein said attachment means is
comprised of a keyhole formed in said net support that releasably receives a shaped
coupling member operatively coupled to said lower portion of the net.

10 Claim 14 (Original) The standard of claim 12 wherein said attachment means is
provided with a tensioning ratchet to provide supplemental tension to the net.

15 Claim 15 (Original) The standard of claim 1 wherein said net support is disposed
at an angle from the perpendicular with respect to the playing surface prior to applying
tension to the net.

20 Claim 16 (Original) A standard for supporting a game net above a playing
surface, comprising:

an elongated net support having upper and lower end portions and an interior portion;
tensioning means disposed within the interior portion of said net support and operatively
coupled with the net for selectively applying tension to the net; and
means for selectively actuating said tensioning means.

1 Claim 17 (Original) The standard of claim 16 further comprising an elongated housing having upper and lower end portions and an open interior portion; said housing being substantially disposed beneath the playing surface and sized to telescopically receive said net support at least substantially within the interior portion of said housing.

5 Claim 18 (Original) The standard of claim 17 further comprising an elongated lower support having upper and lower end portions and an interior portion; said lower support being operatively coupled to said housing so that said lower support can be telescopically moved within and outwardly from the interior portion of said housing,
10 between extended and retracted positions; said lower support further being sized to telescopically receive said net support at least substantially within the interior portion of said lower support.

15 Claim 19 (Original) The standard of claim 18 further comprising means for selectively positioning said net support at one of a plurality of pre-set heights above the playing surface.

20 Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The standard of claim 19 further comprising power means for generating pressure within said housing to selectively extend said lower support from within said housing and extend said net support from within said lower support; said power means provides a cushion for selectively and gradually
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1 retracting said net support into said lower support ~~said lower support~~ into said housing
and extending.

5 Claim 21 (Original) The standard of claim 16 further comprising attachment
means for releasably coupling a lower portion of the net to said net support.

Please add new claims 22, 23 and 24 as follows:

10 Claim 22 (New) The standard of claim 1 further comprising a roller guide
adjacent the upper end portion of said net support and a bushing operatively coupled
with said tensioning nut; said roller guide and said bushing being positioned to guide
and support said tensioning line.

15 Claim 23 (New) The standard of claim 22 further comprising an anchor for
operatively securing one end of said tensioning line with said net support so that said
tensioning line is movably coupled with said tensioning nut as said tensioning nut
travels along the long axis of said tensioning screw.

20 Claim 24 (New) The standard of claim 23 wherein said anchor is disposed within
the interior portion of said net support so that said tensioning line is at least partially
disposed within the interior portion of said net support.

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